

Planetary Science Data Products and Tools Available for Education and Public Outreach

Education and public outreach desire the assistance and involvement of scientists to help provide the information related to space science to students and the general public. To do this, scientists need readily available access to planetary data and mechanisms for presenting that data to students and the public in a way that is understandable. Tools and techniques for presenting data are available today, but these in turn need the support of scientists to help develop the information that can turn these data and tools into readily usable capabilities for both the classroom and the public.

This session will provide insight into what capabilities to support education and public outreach are available from the Planetary Data System and several tools that currently exist that can utilize Planetary data. In addition, it will address some of the issues that exist that can be addressed and resolved by joint efforts between the data and tool providers and the science community. While the PDS and various tools exist that can present data from PDS to non-scientists, there remains a need to provide further information regarding the data. In addition, the increased emphasis on education and public outreach by the missions is creating an increased need for tools and capabilities to present science data and information by the scientists. This session hopes to show ways in which scientists can help improve these existing capabilities to make them better products for education and public outreach for Planetary Science, and in turn provide scientists with products that can help them meet their commitments to missions for education and public outreach support. Together all can benefit from the work that has been completed and work that remains underway in meeting our education and public outreach goals.